

The recreational fishery in Greece. A comparison to the small scale fishery

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In Mediterranean, marine recreational fishery (RF) is a long-standing tradition, but there is a low degree of knowledge on this activity. Due to the increase of the number of recreational fishers (Rf) in Greece, the fears for stock depletion and the intensive conflicts with the coastal professional fishermen (in terms of sharing fishing grounds and species), the Ministry of Rural Development and Food legislated a Presidential Decree in 1985 concerning recreational fishery. There is a great uncertainty about the estimation of RF's catches, since the studies are sporadic and scarce. According to the Port Authorities, there are 108.841 RF boats and 247.928 Rf (2013). Concurrently, according to the Hellenic Statistical Authority, the number of registered professional coastal fishing vessels (SSF) is 15239 (14% of the recreational vessels) and 20.431 professional fishermen (8,24% of Rf). The annual production of SSF activity is 44.154 tn, the catch production/fisher/day is 8,86 kg, the catch production/vessel/day is 11,87 kg. Based on previous studies in Greece, the number of fishing days by Rf/year ranges between 60-120. Several scenarios have been studied to estimate the total catches of RF based on the above mentioned range of fishing days by Rf/year: from 16.363 tn (37.06% of the total SSF production, 1,1 kg/Rf) to 63.965 tn (144,87% of the total SSF production, 2,15 kg/Rf). The estimated effort of Rf and their catches showing that the RF catches in Greece may exceed the SSF production. Further investigation is needed to study the effects of RF on the fishery stocks.

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